404th Sustainer

Vol 1, Number I Published quarterly in the interest of the Soldiers and Civilians of the 404th AFSB 15 December 2009

Ft. Irwin LSE chief takes prestigious AMC award

Fort Lewis, Wash.—"Superb performance by a great officer and leader."

So said one unsolicited nomination to present the Dellamonica Award to Lt. Col John Glasgow, currently serving as the LSE Chief for Ft. Irwin, Calif.

The nomination went on to assert that during his tenure, Glasgow's Logistics Support Element made a huge impact on unit readiness for all units entering the Southwest Asia Area of Operations.

According to one nominating official, every unit that transited Camp Buehring benefited from his

See "Dellamonica" on page 8

Lt. Col. John Glasgow, above left, accepts the prestigious Dellamonica Award from the 404th AFSB Commander, Col. George Akin during the 404th Commanders' Workshop at Ft. Lewis earlier this fall.
(404th photo by Dick Devlin)

Holiday DUI trivia

Which of the following states had the highest number of arrests for DUI during the holiday season (1 Nov – 7 Jan)? Alaska? Arizona? Hawaii? Washington State? North Carolina? Minnesota?

See 'Safety Trivia" on Page 5.

404th NCO works hard, places high in AMC's highly sought-after title of 'NCO of the Year'

Fort Lewis, Wash.--Alibi firers were just wrapping up zeroing on Range 6. Others had begun walking toward Range 5 to begin breaking down ammunition with which they'd later qualify.

Many Soldiers needle each other about how bad their qualifying scores might be. Still others told war stories from back in "the day" about their prowess with the M16A2.

Then, from behind, an insistent crunching on the gravel range road and a pair of NCOs hustles by raising a small cloud of dust. One is reading aloud from a pocket book, the other providing answers as rapidly as they were posed.

See "Professionals" on page 7

SSgt.Juana Rascon pumps out soldier skill-type questions helping her buddy Sgt.1st Class Tensye Murrell as they await their turn on a Ft. Lewis range. Murrell was studying to participate in ASC's NCO of the Year competition at Rock Island. She says she hates to waste time especially when she can use it to her advantage.
(404th photo by Dick Devlin)

Half a century spent working for Uncle Sam

Mr. John D. Stavnesli was recognized for over 50 years of service to the Federal Government in May, 2009. John entered the US Army in 1949 and retired at the rank of CWO4 with 29 years, 8 months, 27 days. He re-entered Federal Service in 1984 and has been serving admirably to this day. He is currently the Brigade S4 and to date has over 55 years of dedication to this great nation! Well done, Chief. (Sustainer photo by Dick Devlin)

This *404th Sustainer*, is an authorized, unofficial publication for members of the Department of Defense. The contents of the *Sustainer* do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor are they endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of the Army or the 404th AFSB.

Commander's Corner

Colonel Akin

Since my arrival to the 404th AFSB in April of 2009, the dedication and tremendous support to our Soldiers and our units by our military, civilian and contracted work force has been exceptional. I am impressed everyday as I visit them at their duty location and am reminded that above all of our tasks, supporting the Materiel Enterprise mission and accomplishing our ARFORGEN function — it is our people who consistently make the difference. The Army is a people business and taking care of Soldiers is ultimately how we should assess our daily contributions.

I have watched 404th personnel work together to accomplish Soldier support by leveraging our ASALT, LCMCs, SCRs, and LSE/AFSBn capabilities to RESET Soldier equipment and increase Army units' capabilities. Multiple times as I talk with Brigade Commanders and Army General Officers in our area of responsibility, I hear them express, "The support to Soldiers by the entire AMC Team is a huge Army success story." In short we could not ready these units to fight these wars without the tremendous effort put forth by each of you. My thanks to your many accomplishments and as we close out 2009, I know that 2010 will be even more important as our mission and scope of effort expands.

Expected in 2010 is the Army's shift to promote more stability in Afghanistan while balancing the right mix of forces left in Iraq. We can see the return of I CORPS - TEAM LEWIS - with over seven brigades- worth of equipment, back to families and home station. Ft Lewis will become a Joint Base as of 31 January and we will continue to RESET and ready more units to deploy to both Iraq and Afghanistan.

As the 404th we internally will implement operations to support pre-deployment training equipment operations, implement new LBE procedures and achieve initial operational control of some of the Directorates of Materiel (DOMs) in our footprint. A "truism" for any enterprise is the idea that as we execute current operations for the Army successfully, we will be asked to reach further to increase unit equipment readiness and effectiveness of Army systems across the ASALT and LCMC domains.

As Commander, I need your help to enforce a consistent 404th message. "What is each of us doing to increase effective communication and are we forcing synchronization of all of our 404th capabilities?" We are a very lean organization - everyone is important -and meeting the challenges of 2010 will stress our teamwork. I am heartened from what I have already witnessed and I know that we are up to this task! During the Holidays I echo the message of all leaders to be Safe, enjoy the time with your family, remember the Soldiers and civilians who are deployed and as always we need you to

Sustain to Win!!

404th shows Stryker Brigade that "Sustain to Win" is a way of life

Fort Irwin, Calif —There are no "big box stores" in the desert. So what does a commander do when his unit is facing a show-stopping maintenance glitch. Who's a leader to call? Not Ghostbusters. They won't make house calls.

On the other hand, the Soldiers and civilians from the Ft. Lewis-based 404th Army Field Support Brigade (AFSB) will…and quickly.

The solution is the Brigade Logistics Support Team and shares the motto of its parent organization "Sustain to Win" a mindset which was repeatedly demonstrated during their Mission Readiness Exercise at the National Training Center.

The commander of the 404th Army Field Support Brigade, Col. George G. Akin, got a look at the concept in action at the National Training Center where he spent time with Ft. Lewis' own 3/2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) earlier this year

The 3/2 was finishing up its certification training in preparation to deploy. Appropriately, in this case, the Stryker community is where the BLST concept began. The team of military and Department of the Army civilian LARs serve side by side, generally in austere conditions with the Soldiers they support. It's actually a condition of employment for the civilian LARs**.**

A visit to Forward Operating Base King offers a quick entrée into the conditions under which everyone gets to eat a good measure of blowing dust on a daily basis. The concept of the Brigade Logistics Support Team, or BLaST, is to act as a force multiplier for our combat brigades mobilized in support of Overseas Contingency Operations. The idea is to leverage the

See "Stryker" on page 4

Col. George Akin, commander of the 404th, talks with CW4 Daniel Lal , far left, Chief of the 3/2 BLST, about the challenges he and his team face at forward locations like Forward Operating Base King in the Mojave Desert. Listening in, left to right, are Lt.. Col. Cheryl Brady, then chier of LSE Ft. Lewis, Lt. Col. John Glasgow, chief the Ft. Irwin LSE, Mr Sam M. Dresel (LMS OPS) and, partially obscured, Mr. Celestino Babilonia-Rivera (Tino) the team's LMS.
(404th AFSB photo by Dick Devlin

George G. Akin
COL, LG
Commander

B.R.Devlin
Public Affairs Officer

The *404th Sustainer* is an authorized, unofficial publication distributed IAW AR 360-1 for members of the 404th Army Field Support Brigade and is published semi-annually. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of Mr. Dick Devlin, 404th Public Affairs Officer who may be reached by writing 404th Army Field Support Brigade, ATTN: Public Affairs Officer, MS25, Box 339500, Ft. Lewis, WA 98433-9500. The PAO is also available via commercial telephone at 253.966.0023; via Fax at 253.966.6199; on DSN at 347.0023; BlackBerry at 253.651.1603 or via email *dick.devlin@us.army.mil*.

The CSM Sends

CSM Ray

As the 404th Army Field Support Brigade Command Sergeant Major, I want to take this opportunity to say hello to all Military, Department of the Army Civilians and contractors. As everyone takes the opportunity to visit their loved ones throughout the country to enjoy the holidays' festivities, it is imperative that we be safe.

Planning for a trip is not just packing clothes and necessities; it also calls for, planning the trip route, and expecting of the unexpected.

Plan rest breaks on long trips. And remember that winter months can drastically increase traffic accidents due to risky road conditions.

Unfortunately, there is also a higher number of accidents caused by drinking and driving. Drunk drivers kill themselves, their passengers, people they do not know and even people they love. If going out to celebrate, be responsible! Drinking as little as one drink per hour can impair your ability to drive and get you arrested for DUI.

If you're hosting a party, make sure everyone has a safe ride home or offer to let them stay overnight. Never encourage the "one more for the road" notion or push alcohol on someone who doesn't want any. Make sure nonalcoholic drinks are available. Contrary to popular belief black coffee, cold showers, fresh air, or folk-remedies will not overcome the effects of alcohol. They may make you wide-awake, but you will still be just as drunk.

The only remedy is time. The only one.

I want to remind everyone safety is an integral part of all we do and safety is not only a leader's responsibility. Everyone encounters events during daily activities that require risky decisions. We all must take the time to make our best decisions. I challenge everyone during the holiday season to evaluate their daily activities and not allow unnecessary risk to creep in to their celebrations.

Over the next few days we will celebrate two of our oldest traditions: Christmas and New Years. These days it's is not just an opportunity to eat, drink, be merry and exchange gifts; it is also a reaffirmation of our most deeply held values. The gratitude for God's gift of life, freedom for all and the many blessing which he has bestowed upon us all.

Remember, much has changed since that first Christmas.

Still, generations of hardworking men and women have given their lives for freedom. Let us not forget that freedom is not free. Many of our military families will be celebrating standing in harm's way, far from those they love.

But, I'm confident that while they spend these holidays away from home, they will remain vigilant and dedicated to the mission despite the holidays. Let us remember the war-fighters and pray for their safe return. It is my firm belief that each of us can be an instrument of blessing to those we touch, Christmas Day, New Years Day---and every day of the year.

ARMY STRONG!

CSM Rex A. Ray
Command Sergeant Major
404th Army Field Support Brigade

404th AFSB is officially a year old...

… and we have the cake to prove it!

At left, 404th Deputy Commander Marty Utzig helps CSM Rex Ray cut the first official birthday cake.

Unit's actual date of birth? 16 October 2008.

Despite earlier variations and permutations of the organizational name, we now have official colors (unit flag,) two years of written history, and both Shoulder Sleeve Insignia and Distinctive Unit Insignia and a lineage and honors certificate from the Army Center for Military History.

Finally, the 404th now has its own quarterly newsletter called the *404th Sustainer*. Remember, we'd love to feature your unit in the future. Please see the bottom of page 2 for contact information.

To all 404th Soldiers, Civilians, contractors and your great families

Seasons' Greetings

from the Ray Family
Pfc Rex Jr., Carolyn and CSM Ray

"Stryker"
continued from page 2

the work done by a relatively small group. Their members are "embedded" with their supported unit and move with it under the over-watch of the 404th .

With literally hundreds of years of combined technical expertise, the teams provide the experience needed to adapt to situations that combat produces. The teams are able to stay in contact with their supported units by reaching forward, while having the ability to "reach back" to CONUS or other location, to diagnose and overcome the stickiest of logistical issues. Team members are professional equipment specialists from major commands within AMC known as Logistics Assistance Representatives or LARs. Many are retired Soldiers who spent their military careers focused on combat equipment. They also cultivate an "urban legend" which holds that a LAR has the innate ability to sense what critical subsystem will ultimately lead to failure of an entire system…and when it will happen. It also has it that they know all the parts manuals by rote and know where to go and who to contact to get a required part. To a casual onlooker, though, it's more like art and magic than legend.

CWO4 Daniel Lal, Chief of the 3/2 BLST, gives a quick overview about terrain and other challenges he and his team face at forward locations like Forward Operating Base King in the Mojave Desert.
(404th photo by Dick Devlin)

Welcoming new and recognizing veteran 404th AFSB Sustainers

Hail...

MAJ Philip R. Clark – LSE-Fort Lewis - 15 Jul 09
Mr. Mark I. Illg – 404th AFSB S-3 - 2 Aug 09
Ms. Hilda M. Irizarry – 2/25 SBCT BLST - 3 Aug 09
LTC Robert J. Miceli – 404th AFSB ALT - 9 Sep 09
Ms. Christine I. Madeira – AFSBn-HI - 14 Sep 09
Mr. Christopher C. Thibodeau – LSE-Fort Lewis - 21 Sep 09
Mr. Neftali E. Santiago – 2/25 SBLT BLST – 30 Sept 09
Mr. Jamie L. Turner — AFSBn-HI – 11 Oct 09
Mr. Roderick W. Combs, 404th AFSB Safety –2 Nov 09

Farewell...

LTC Cheryl D. Brady – LSE-Fort Lewis - PCS – 15 Jul 09
COL Gwendolyn S. Roland – AFSBn-HI - PCS – 15 Aug 09
CSM J. W. Cousin – 404th AFSB CSM - Ret – 30 Aug 09
MAJ Pete A. Ross – LSE-Fort Lewis – PCS – 30 Aug 09
LTC Brett A. Hampton – LSE, Fort Richardson REFRAD – 4 Sep 09
Mr. Robert W. Poe – LST, Fort Irwin – 22 Nov 09

…and thanks

For a combined 200 years of federal service

Certificate of Recognition for
50 Years of Federal Service
John D. Stavnesli
for 40 Years of Federal Service
Bernard R. Devlin
Eddy D. McLendon
for 30 Years of Federal Service
Gregory L. Alderete
Ellen L. Walker
for 10 Years of Federal Service
Angela S. McGee

Logisticians get more training than your average bear

Four Sustainers graduated from the HQ ASC-conducted a 5-day course How a BLST Works earlier this year. They were CWO4 Filipe Vicente, Schofield Barracks (second from left, front row); LTC Cheryl Brady, then of Ft. Lewis (fourth from left, front row); MAJ Stephanie White, Ft. Lewis (fifth from left, second row) and LTC John Glasgow, Ft. Irwin. The course covers a broad spectrum of information from an ASC overview to working with contractors on the battlefield. Greg Alderete, then the 404th S3 and Chris Hurtle, then the 404th's SPO made presentations for the group.

USAMMA LNOs ; half technician s, half salesmen

Little-known 404th AFSB mission saves soldier lives

Fort Lewis, Wash.-- Put yourself in the boots of this young medic Remember, it's you in there. Though the scenario is made up and a bit contrived, it's not beyond belief.

Just north of the Helmand River your unit had become engaged in an IED and small arms ambush. A few of your comrades have suffered relatively minor burns and shrapnel wounds and are waiting for you, "Doc," to treat them.

You reach for your Molle Kit to get a trauma dressing, tourniquet. 0.9% Normal Saline and a large bore IV catheter. The bag is empty. In fact, there is no bag. Replacement medical supplies are hung up in "the system" for some reason somewhere.

"It's all about information and customer service"

Wouldn't it would be great to have an expert in medical supply management you could call upon to help trouble shoot and fix your problem in real time? A sort of subject matter expert you could call upon.

Enter the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency for the 404th AFSB headquartered at Ft. Lewis, Wash.

One of only five such offices nationwide, the "sales" territory is vast.

Many days when the LNO is not on the road he can be seen touring medical units on Ft. Lewis stirring up customers, answering their questions, offering advice on the "system" and leaving informational and training materials for them.

Another critical element of his program is to drum up business and create an awareness that he exists to support the units' mission of saving lives.

Most of the LNOs believe that soldiers don't really know or understand how medical supplies arrive at t heir location hey just know they need them. They would insists that having a proactive public rela tions campaign to create awareness is an essential and integral element of a good medical logistics effort.

It's all about information and customer service, according to knowledgeable Army medical logistic cians .

In their jobs supporting the 404th as well as other AFSBs, they serve as forward site coordina tor covering a designated geographic region for USAMMA.

They are responsible for coordinating actions on or relating to Reset or Left Behind Equipment (LBE) actions; they also conduct on-site assess ments; monitor the fielding status of RESET act ions; conduct training; provide materiel disposit ion and technical expertise concerning medical logistics and maintenance-related matters. The USAMMA customer base also includes both Army Reserve and Army Guard units.

Spc Tim Keane, 22nd Dental Detachment conducts a panoraphic X-Ray for 62nd Med Bde Commander, Col. John A. Powell using equipment like that being fielded and managed by USAMMA

(from page 1)
Trivia Answer
North Carolina had 4,367 DUI arrests during the holiday enforcement period. Arizona finished second with 3,712 during the same period while Minnesota tallied up 3,350. Washington State had 455 DUIs. Alaska 235 and Hawaii rang up 95 DUI busts. California? 9,004.

Above, Spec. Neil Justuss, a dental technician assigned to the 673rd Medical Det. prepares to conduct a pre-deployment dental exam during the unit's CPX. At right,673rd Commander, Maj Gary Stone gives an impromptu lecture to some of his logistical soldiers about ways to better handle their specialized equipment an to utilize invaluable services available from USAMMA.

(Sustainer photos by Dick Devlin.)

404th members win national recognition

Lean Six moves into spotlight , improves efficiencies

Ft Lewis, Wash-- In 1982 it was known as Quality and Productivity Improvement, QPI. That morphed into Total Quality Management or TQM. Then it took on the moniker of Business Process Reengineering.

Finally, Toyota met Motorola and the rest, as they say, is history. Lean and Six Sigma were blended in to a singular production management system. Can you say goodbye to "time/motion studies?"

Lean is an outgrowth of the Toyota production system, and focuses on increasing efficiency and reducing cycle time by the elimination of waste. On the other hand Six Sigma was developed by Motorola in the 1970s as an approach to improving quality and effectiveness through statistical control.

Odd as it may appear, Six Sigma's roots go back more than years to a Prussian mathematician, Johann through radical change. Farr, one of the most recent recipients of the Master Black Belt, asserts Lean Six Sigma "Enables a culture of innovation that continuously listens to its customers, asks questions the status quo, and improves results through fact-based decisions."

Then there is this ephemeral notion called "Kaizen". Often translated as ongoing, continuous improvement, some Japan-watchers credit its competitive success in the world's markets as the result of the implementation of-

Above, newly-minted 404th Master Black Belt, Bob Farr takes time to explain Six Sigma while, at left, he works on a "spaghetti chart" in preparation for a briefing.

Kaizen principals. In contrast to the usual emphasis on revolutionary, innovative "one shot" changes, Kaizen looks for uninterrupted, ongoing incremental change. There is always room for improvement and continuously striving to become better.

Headquarters AMC first employed Lean in 2002 as a tool to better wage what was then the Global War on Terrorism (now Overseas Contingency Operations) and to enable Army Transformation. Lean evolved to Lean Six Sigma and AMC began a program to train and develop the entire workforce in the use of these tools.

Farr notes the benefit to training our own people rather bringing in "hired guns" from industry is self-sufficiency.

"It makes good sense that if we're going to do this on a long-term basis it has to become part of our culture, and the best way forward is to grow the capability it in-house."

See "Kaizen" on page 7

Equal Opportunity assistance by contacting your representative

Hello, I am Sgt1C Tensye Murrell, the Equal Opportunity Leader (EOR) for the 404th AFSB.

I am available to offer advice and training for our military personnel.

Each quarter, as your EOR, I am required to ensure that each of you receives training on Equal Opportunity, Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Consideration of Others.

This quarter, the focus of our training is on Values, Attitudes, Behaviors, and Self-Awareness.

If you have any questions or issues, I may be reached through the Public Affairs Office at 253-966-0023;/DSN 357-0023 or email to the EOC at *Lewis404AFSBEOC@CONUS.Army.Mil*

Dellamonica Award

from page 1

Glasgow's team of experts. His Logistics Assistance Representatives enjoyed a great reputation resulting in certified training of over 100 soldiers and a nearly a nearly $50 million savings of serviceable assets returned to the Army supply system.

The chief of Logistics Support Element-Kuwait, was a battalion-level nominative assignment representing the Commanding General, Army Materiel Command by serving as the single point of contact between the logistics support community and field commanders.

Responsible for planning, coordinating, and prioritizing workloads as well as the health and welfare of all assigned and attached Logistics Assistance Representatives (LARs) from three Life Cycle Management Commands (LCMC), he also monitored and assisted new equipment fielding and vehicle enhancement packages.

The unit supported the Army Pre-positioned Stocks (APS) battalions in SWA and the Army Reset program, realizing $50 million savings of serviceable assets returned to the Army supply system. Glasgow and his team helped rooted out significant maintenance problems and routinely devised remedies for these problems that have benefited the entire Army according to the citation.

In short, those on the ground recognized the unit turned in a stellar performance in a myriad support roles, in austere conditions, in a complex operating environment and had done it without fanfare.

Kaizen

from page 6

Farr points out that in contrast to the usual emphasis on revolutionary, innovative "one shot" changes, Kaizen looks for uninterrupted, ongoing incremental change. There is always room for improvement and continuously striving to become better. Farr notes the benefit to training our own people rather bringing in "hired guns" from industry is self-sufficiency.

"It makes good sense that if we're going to do this on a long-term basis it has to become part of our culture, and the best way forward is to grow the capability in house.

For their parts, Lean Six Sigma Black Belts become-center pieces of a program integrating the strategies of Lean and of Six Sigma. They are improvement experts who are deployed to conduct the project work that delivers overall mission success. As if to highlight the value of Lean Six Sigma to the 404th, two veteran Sustainers, were recognized for their work by the Army Materiel Command during its Lean Six Sigma Excellence Awards Program, or LEAP.

Mr. Bob Farr from HQ, 404th won for leading his team's project, an enterprise-level, gated project team award for "CPSI Reset Cycle Time Reduction." CWO4 Jose Marquez, from LSE Fortr W.ainwright, Alaska led the non-enterprise gated project team award for "Streamlining the DOL Supply Operations." The final tally had USASC units (specifically 404th units) was that two of 11 awards went to the Sustainers

Professionals

from page 1

"What is Antabuse?"

"How do you treat for heat stroke?"

"What's the maximum effective range of the M16A2?"

"What's the time standard to don your protective mask?

The pair headed straight for a bit of shade behind the range shack where the inquisition continued, even as the pair doffed their personal protective gear to catch a bit of a break from the heat.

The forecast was calling for the first 90-degree day of the year and the shade is disappearing fast. Yes, Fort Lewis temperatures can reach into the 90s.

Regardless, the stream of questions continues unabated.

The coach and inquisitor-in-chief, as it turns out, is SSgt. Juana Rascon, a military training NCO assigned to the brigade. The respondent is Sgt. 1st Class Tensye Murrell. Both are assigned to HQ 404th Army Field Support Brigade, a US. Army Sustainment Command organization garrisoned on Fort Lewis. In addition to being the unit's Automated Logistics Supply Technician, a 92A40, and mother of four, Murrell was the 404th entry in the USASC "Year of the NCO" competition scheduled for Rock Island Arsenal earlier this year.

Murrell was preparing herself for intense questioning from the senior NCOs who would sit on her selection board as a part of the competition. Apparently, her "total immersion" system worked. Earlier in the year she was the Honor Graduate from her ANCOC class at Fort Lee, Va. As she grounds her gear she quips "I really don't like to waste available time especially when I can use it to my advantage."

"You've got to use it when it's there."As it turned out, about four minutes were available for use before the call to "gear up" came across the range public address set.

Although Murrell claims to hold no particular personal philosophy, she is a believer in and practitioner of the opening lines of the NCO Creed and strives to make them work...

No one is more professional than I.
I am 'The backbone of the Army.'

The 404th 's Bob Farr is flanked by Ms. Joyce E. Morrow, Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army and Lt. Gen. Robert E Durbin, Director of the Enterprise Task Force as he accepts the LEAP Award

Knowledge plus Experience equals Wisdom in this Journey to Leadership

Rock Island, Ill.— This ***'Journey'*** requires commitment, but the rewards are so vast, we know you will be glad you took the leap. The personal assessment instruments will give you a total understanding of your strengths, leadership style, potential goals and developmental opportunities. JTL graduates and current participants will be eager to tell you how life-changing this program can be and with over 200 of them out there, you will have no trouble finding them With the ever-changing missions and structure of the Army it's critical that you stay current on the latest leadership tools and techniques. This will help ensure that you are the person your leader depends on to get the job done. In this exciting adventure, you'll learn how to communicate more assertively, network with new peers and leaders, maintain a positive attitude, seek out new challenges and develop your "Emotional Intelligence" Visit the JTL website for all the information you'll need at: https://www2.osc.army.mil/HR/JTL/

404th AFSB Journey to Leadership Course graduates included (from left to right), Mr. Eddy MacLendon (404th AFSB Personnel Officer); Ms Marlene Saguccio (TSC-8, Ft. Shafter, Hawaii,); Ms. Deborah Snovel (Fort Richardson, Alaska); Ms. Ellen Walker (404th AFSB Personnel Officer); Julia Lyons; Ms. Kathleen Anderson, (Schofield Barracks, Hawaii) and, (far right) Ms. Wendy Dominique (Fort Wainwright, Alaska)

Parting safety shot

"Keeping the home fires burning" does not mean you should burn your house down...

- Winter holiday fires were more severe than the average fire during the year across all loss measures. Christmas tree and other decoration fires were substantially more damaging. Injuries per fire were twice as high as the average winter holiday fire, fatalities per fire were five times greater and the dollar loss per fire was over three times the winter holiday average. This is indicative of the potential rapid spread of a tree or decoration fire. The rate of Christmas tree fires per day was higher in the last half of December than the first half, and then declined during the first week of January.
- Loss Measures for Winter Holiday Fires: December 1–January 7

Loss Measure	Average	All Winter Holiday Fires	Christmas Tree and Decoration Fires
Dollar Loss/Fire	$6,245	$7,783	$27,259
Injuries/1,000 Fires	12.7	15.9	39.0
Fatalities/1,000 Fires	2.5	4.2	21.3